

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE

# the marquee • volume 12 • no. 5

FALL, 1986

A LETTER FROM THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AKT

Dear Members and Friends of AKT,

As I write this letter from the new AKT office in Lawrence, I am surrounded by piles of AKT materials: past Marquees, brochures from conferences, membership files, correspondence voluminous, playbills representing theatre accomplishments--all evidence of your history. As the new Executive Director of the Association of Kansas Theatre, I am thrilled to become part of that history as it continues to unfold.

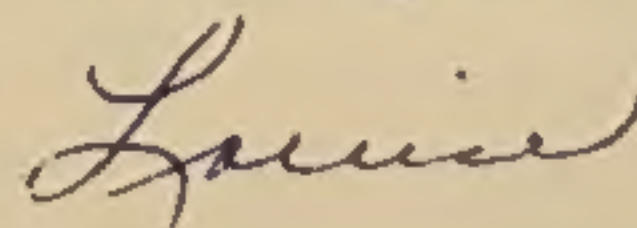
Together with my husband (an anthropology prof at KU) and three children (two in college, one in high school), I have made Kansas my home base for twenty years. During that time, I received my Master's degree and held a number of positions: information specialist, resource center director, editor, co-author, reference librarian, library consultant and administrator. These jobs were interspersed with extended periods of residence in England, Tahiti, Denmark, and New Zealand. For the past several years I have been involved with the Lawrence Community Theatre, working on crew, acting, publicity, and especially on committees, including chairing our recently completed season ticket sales campaign.

I am well aware of the unique and outstanding contributions made by Twink Lynch during her tenure as Executive Director. Her legacy to Kansas theatre is incalculable and I am indeed fortunate to have the opportunity to build on an organizational foundation established by her.

At this moment our state is experiencing unusually hard times economically, and these conditions necessarily affect theatre as well as the other arts. This makes energetic promotion of theatre more important than ever and I am enthusiastic about joining you in the job.

Please feel free to call the AKT office, or stop by when you are in Lawrence. I look forward to meeting you personally in the months ahead. Do keep me informed about your activities. For now, I will return to unpacking these cardboard boxes and getting the office shipshape, ready for the tasks that lie before us.

Best regards,



Louise Hanson  
Executive Director, AKT  
1628 Dudley Court  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
(913) 842-3502

## THEATRE IN LIFE LONG LEARNING

Editor's note: The following speech was delivered by John Stefano at the Thespians Banquet held at Olathe South High School in May, 1986.

The last time I was here was for Colleen Dewhurst's one-woman show, "And Sarah Laughed," which she performed in your auditorium for the AKT convention. You should know something about AKT because you should be a part of it if you stay in Kansas. AKT stands for the Association of Kansas Theatre. Its members are college professors, high school teachers, community theatre people, children's theatre directors, and professionals in the Kansas commercial theatre. We hold an annual convention and we carry out special projects--more about that later.

This year's convention theme was "Theatre in life-long learning." That's why we invited your teacher, Mr. Ramseyer, to do a play--he made the courageous choice of Media--and why we invited Shawnee Mission South High School to do a matinee of The Wizard of Oz. We also saw performances by a children's theatre troupe, College Players, and by Miss Dewhurst. We wanted to demonstrate to the people of Kansas that theatre, like the other arts, is something they can do all their lives. That was why we asked John Carey, the Director of the Kansas Arts Commission, and Colleen Dewhurst, who is also President of Actor's Equity, to speak to the convention and it was why we asked Steven Kaagan, the Commissioner of Education of the state of Vermont, to deliver the keynote address. Please note that I said the Commissioner of Education, because that's what I want to focus on tonight, especially since we're meeting in a school. I want to talk about "back-to-basics," schools, human beings, and the arts.

There is nothing inherently wrong with the idea of "back-to-basics." In fact, every good organization is always working at refining and redefining what that means. But in education in America that phrase has meant reading, writing, and arithmetic. People who can't read, can't write, and can't add are not going to be functional

in our world. Let's accept the truth of that. Let's also accept that learning to read is and must be the prime focus of early education. But once that has happened, once a child has learned to read, then what?

Most of you, I suspect, have known how to read at least since you were eight years old. So what have you been doing for the last ten years? What have you been reading about, writing about, adding up? Reading, writing and arithmetic turn out not to be basics at all, in one sense. They are more like pre-requisites or--better--tools. Wonderful tools, but tools none-the-less, and meaningless unless used well.

So what constitutes "good use"? Well, I would argue that the best use of the tools of reading, writing and arithmetic is to share discoveries. About what? About life. About why leaves are green, why the sky is blue, why planets wander, how salamanders grow new tails, how porpoises talk and how they think, why poverty exists, why love hurts so much sometimes, and how we should face death. These are the basics, the fundamental questions to which human beings seek answers. Reading, writing and arithmetic are good tools, but they are not the only tools, and they may not be the best ones for answering some of the basic questions.

The best answer to "What does the wind look like?" is--I believe-- in the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh. The best answer to "What is love?" is in the plays of William Shakespeare. And the best answer to "What is heaven like?" may be in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Reading and writing are tremendous sources of information and arithmetic helps us keep track of our bank accounts. But art teaches us how to see, music teaches us how to hear, and theatre teaches us how to live. Aren't these the real basics?  
(continued)

## THEATRE IN LIFE-LONG LEARNING cont.

In his AKT keynote address, Steve Kaagan shared some images that I'll probably never forget. His topic was what schools would look like if the arts were the core. He began by asking us to imagine a lobby of a typical American high school. See it? It's big and spacious and ugly except for the sports trophy case against the wall. But what, Kaagan asked, if the lobby was the library? Or a sculpture garden? Or if a Calder mobile was suspended from the ceiling? What if high school corridors had paintings on the walls and music playing and plants growing? Why do businesses have all of these things and schools none of them? Why do schools look like prisons? (Even this one, which is new and well-kept, looks like it was designed by and for custodians: if there's ever a riot, all they'll have to do is wash down the walls.) Wouldn't you learn better in a lively, life-filled environment? In fact, we know you would.

Kaagan also asked us to imagine a typical pre-school room. Kids in every corner, working together, each group doing something a little different: painting, building sand castles, listening to stories, playing with number cubes, making music, reading a book, playing house, or astronauts. Are these children learning? You bet they are. How? By playing. Playing with paints, sand, sounds, numbers, words, ideas, and each other. The greatest art begins with this kind of play. (And, incidentally, the greatest science as well, a secret which scientists--but too few others--know.)

Now imagine a first grade room. All the desks facing front, the room quiet, all the children focused "independently," meaning in isolation, on the same task. How do you explain the difference, Kaagan asked. Is there something magical which happens to human beings at the age of seven? If it's good for three to five year olds, why not for seven year olds? Or tens or sixteens or--for that matter, forty year olds? What Steven Kaagan did for me and many others that night was

to give us an image of how American education might be transformed, and how we as artists might help in that transformation.

Let me carry his ideas forward a bit. What would schools look like if theatre were one of the core tools, one of the basics? Very early, beginning in kindergarten, you'd have played some of Viola Spolin's theatre games, like "Space Substance" and "Machines" and "Guess How Old I Am?," all designed to stimulate your creativity and sharpen your observation of people. Around third grade, after a lot of research, you and your class would have improvised a day in the life of a Plains Indian Tribe, each of you taking a role and interacting with everyone else in character. In the fifth grade, you'd have been challenged to solve a big problem, like a dam break or a mine cave-in, and all your real-life problem-solving skills would be brought into play. In the seventh grade you'd have started doing Shakespeare, both to find out about how people lived in England around 1600, and to begin dealing with the art of theatre itself. In the ninth grade you'd become part of the school's repertory company, acting in, designing and directing classics and original works which everyone in the school would attend.

These are dreams, of course, but what else are we here for? The American public school system was designed for the Industrial Age, when manufacturers and businesses needed lots of people who were content to do relatively boring tasks, like adding up columns of numbers, over and over and over again ten hours a day, six days a week, fifty weeks a year. But we live in a different time, and we need creative people now, not robots. And the arts, including theatre, may be the best tools we have for educating the people America and the world will need in the 21st century.  
(continued)

# THEATRE IN LIFE-LONG LEARNING cont.

Well, back to AKT's special project. We decided to take on Kaagan's challenge and to focus our efforts on establishing the arts as the basic curriculum in our schools. You can be a special part of that effort. I challenge you, starting tonight, to being thinking, as citizens and students, about what you want your school to look like. Get together with the principal and your teachers and concerned parents and art students and music students and dance students and start imagining the best place and the best way to learn about the real curriculum--life itself. And you might start with the lobby.

## NATIONAL ARTS WEEK NOVEMBER 16-22

Local arts agencies, civic groups, and cultural organizations are encouraged to call attention to the arts in the community during the week of November 16-22. Designated as National Arts Week, organizations nationwide will be enlisting greater public support and participation in the arts at the local level.

The National Association of Local Arts Agencies (N.A.L.A.A.) is organizing this year's first National Arts Week to focus public attention on the proposition that arts on the local level are thriving and deserve maximum community, corporate, public and private support. For more information contact the N.A.L.A.A. at 1785 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Suite 413, Washington, DC 20036, 202-483-8670.

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## THEATRE ACROSS THE STATE

### DISTRICT ONE (NORTHWEST KS)

Fort Hays State University  
(Call: 913-628-4225)

Nov. 20-23 - PLAY IT AGAIN SAM  
Feb. 26-Mar.1 - LOOK HOMEWARD ANGEL  
Apr. 30-May 3 - TRUE WEST

### DISTRICT TWO (NORTH CENTRAL KS)

Abilene Community Theatre  
(Call: 913-263-7266)

Nov. 13-16 - THE BUTLER DID IT  
Feb. 12-15 - THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE  
(Annual variety show)  
May 7-10 - THE LADIES OF THE GARDEN CLUB  
Jul. 30-31, Aug. 1-2, 6-9 - MY FAIR LADY

### Cloud County Community College

Feb. 19-21 - THE PIED PIPER (Childrens Theatre)

Junction City Little Theatre  
(Call: 913-238-6220 or 238-3218)

Dec. 4-6 - THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER  
Feb. 5-7 - ALONE, TOGETHER  
Apr. 30, May 1-2 - TAKING MY TURN

Kansas State University Players  
(Call: 913-532-6398 or 532-6875)

Nov. 13-15, 19-22 - THE CONSTANT WIFE  
Jan. 27-31 - SHAKESPEAREAN RESIDENCY  
Feb. 12-14, 18-21 - TOMORROW, FROM ANY WINDOW  
Mar. 5-7 - THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR  
Apr. 16-18, 22-25 - SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER  
May 1-2 - STILL ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING ON PLANET EARTH

### Manhattan Civic Theatre

Oct. 10-11, 17-18 - WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY?  
Dec. 5-6, 12-13 - FIDDLER ON THE ROOF  
Feb. 20-21, 27-28 - LAUNDRY AND BOURBON/ LONESTAR  
Apr. 10-11, 17-18 - A...MY NAME IS ALICE

### DISTRICT TWO, continued

Marysville Area Community Theatre

Nov. 15-16 - YOU OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES  
Feb. 13-15 - WINTER PLAY (TBA)

### Marysville High School

Nov. 22-23 - YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN  
Dec. 15 - CHILDREN'S THEATRE TOUR  
Jan. 20 - ANNUAL TALENT SEARCH  
Mar. 28-29 - SPRING MUSICAL  
May 7 - AWARDS SHOW

Salina Community Theatre  
(Call: 913-827-6126)

Dec. 5-7, 10-14 - ALONE TOGETHER  
Jan. 30-31, Feb. 1, 4-8 - MASS APPEAL  
Apr. 24-26, 29-30, May 1-3 - LADIES IN RETIREMENT  
Jun. 26-28, Jul. 1-3, 8-12 - ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

### DISTRICT THREE (NORTHEAST KS)

Atchinson Performing Arts Association  
(Call: 913-367-1647)

Nov. 7-9, 14-16 - DREAM WORLD  
Apr. 3-5, 10-12 - HARVEY

Baker University Theatre (Baldwin City)  
(Call: 913-594-6451, X481)

Nov. 5-8 - HEDDA GABLER

Helen Hocker Theatre (Topeka)  
(Call: 913-273-1191)

Oct. 23-26, 28-31, Nov. 1 - MYSTERY THRILLER

Johnson County Community College  
(Overland Park)  
(Call: 913-469-8500, X3273)

Oct. 29-Nov. 1 - SKIN OF OUR TEETH  
Feb. 18-21 - WALLY'S CAFE  
Apr. 22-25 - THE FANTASTIKS

# THEATRE ACROSS THE STATE

## District three, continued

Kansas University Theatre (Lawrence)  
(Call: 913-864-3982)

Nov. 14-16, 20-22 - THE BEST LITTLE  
WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS  
Feb. 26-28, Mar. 5-7 - BRIGHTON BEACH  
MEMOIRS  
Apr. 7-8, 10-11 - THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Lawrence Community Theatre  
(Call: 913-The-Show)

Nov. 6-8, 14-16 - MASTERCLASS  
Dec. 4-7, 12-14 - BAREFOOT IN THE PARK  
Jan. 22-24, 30-31, Feb. 1 - A DELICATE  
BALANCE  
Mar. 5-8, 13-15 - THE FOREIGNER  
Apr. 23-26, May 1-3 - THE DIARY OF ANNE  
FRANK

Olathe Community Theatre  
(Call: 913-782-2990)

Nov. 14-15, 20-22 - THE RETIREMENT OF  
ARTIE CAPUCCIO  
Dec. 19-20 - CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW  
Feb. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 - THE APPLE TREE  
Mar. 19-21 - REUNION  
May 1-2, 8-9, 15-16 - TOWARDS ZERO

## Perry Le Compton High School

Nov. 5-7 - SOUTH PACIFIC  
Dec. 14 - THE LITTLEST ANGEL

Seamon High School (Topeka)  
(Call: 913-286-0011)

Oct. 23-31 - HAUNTED HOUSE  
Nov. 14-15 - FALL PLAY  
Mar. 26-28 - THE MUSIC MAN  
Apr. 22 - THE VIKING VAUDVILLE  
VARIETY SHOW  
May 14 - SPOTLIGHTERS AWARDS BANQUET

Theatre for Young America (Overland  
Park)  
(Call: 913-648-4600)

Oct. 30-Nov. 16 - THE PIED PIPER OF  
HAMELIN  
Nov. 25-Dec. 23 - THE BEST CHRISTMAS  
PAGEANT EVER  
Jan. 15-Feb. 1 - AMELIA BEDELIA  
Feb. 19-Mar. 15 - GOLDILOCKS AND THE  
THREE BEARS

Mar. 28-Apr. 16 - DR SEUSS' 500 HATS  
OF BARTHOLOMEW CUBBINS  
Apr. 30-May 21 - THE LION, THE WITCH  
AND THE WARDROBE  
Jun. 11-18 - A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Topeka Civic Theatre  
(Call: 913-357-5211)

Oct. 17-Nov. 2 - THE FOREIGNER  
Nov. 28-Dec. 21 - SOMETHING'S AFOOT  
Feb. 6-22 - BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS  
Mar. 20-Apr. 12 - JERRY'S GIRLS  
May 1-17 - THE ELEPHANT MAN  
Jun. 5-21 - THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST  
Jul. 17-Aug. 9 - BRIGADOON

Washburn University Theatre (Topeka)  
(Call: 913-295-6639)

Nov. 14-16, 21-23 - THE RIMERS OF  
ELDRITCH  
Feb. 27-28, Mar. 1, 6-8 - THE LAST  
MEETING OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE WHITE  
MAGNOLIA  
Apr. 24-26, May 1-3 - SHADOW BOX

Wyandotte Players (KC KS Community College)  
(Call: 913-596-9690)

Oct. 16-19, 24-26 - HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE

## DISTRICT FOUR (SOUTHWEST KANSAS)

Wichita County Community Theatre (Leoti)

Feb. 20-22 - GOD'S FAVORITE

## DISTRICT FIVE (SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS)

Bethany College Theatre (Lindsborg)  
(Call: 913-227-3311, X257)

Nov. 6-8 - PHAEDRA  
Jan. 26 - ANIMAL FARM (Readers Theatre)

Butler County Community College  
(Call: 316-321-5083)

Dec. 4-6 - BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS  
Feb. 16-20, 23-27 - KABUKI CINDERELLA  
Apr. 30, May 1-2 - ALL THE WAY HOME

Kechi Playhouse (N. of Wichita)  
(Call: 316-744-2152)

Oct. 2-26 - BELL, BOOK, AND CANDLE

# THEATRE ACROSS THE STATE

## District five, continued

McPherson College Theatre  
(Call: 316-241-0731, X210)

Dec. 5-6, 12-13 - STUDENT DIRECTED  
CHAMBER THEATRE PRESENTATION  
Mar. 5-7, 12-14 - THE DINING ROOM  
(Dinner theatre)

Wichita Children's Theatre  
(Call: 316-262-2282)

Dec. 11-14 - THE BEST CHRISTMAS  
PAGEANT EVER  
May 8-10, 16-17 - WINNIE THE POOH

Wichita Community Theatre  
(Call: 316-686-1282)

Nov. 19-23 - BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS  
Jan. 21-25 - WHEN WE ARE MARRIED  
Feb. 19-22 - PHILADELPHIA HERE I COME  
(Workshop)  
Apr. 22-26 - INHERIT THE WIND  
May 21-24 - LUANN HAMPTON LAVERTY  
OBERLANDER (Workshop)

Wichita State University Theatre  
(Call: 316-689-3368)

Nov. 8-9 - REUNION AND DARK PONY  
(Readers Theatre)  
Nov. 20-22 - THE WAKE OF JAMEY  
FOSTER (Mainstage)  
Dec. 3-6 - FORGOTTEN VERDICT  
(Experimental)  
Jan. 29-31 - THE LAST DAYS OF ROUTE  
66 (Mainstage)  
Feb. 7-8 - HAIKU (Readers Theatre)  
Feb. 18-21 - TALKING WITH  
(Experimental)  
Mar. 5-7 - THE MARRIAGE OF BETTE AND  
BOO (Mainstage)  
Apr. 1-4 - THE GAS HEART (Experimental)  
Apr. 23-25 - THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE  
(Mainstage)

## DISTRICT SIX (SOUTHEAST KS)

Emporia State University Theatre  
(Call: 316-342-5374 or 343-1200, X256)

Oct. 30-Nov. 2 - BRIGADOON  
Dec. 2-6 - FALL SHOWCASE  
Jan. 20-24 - ANTIGONE

Mar. 4-7 - THE TAMING OF THE SHREW  
Apr. 2-3 - FLINTHILLS ORAL INTERPRETATION  
FESTIVAL  
Apr. 22-25 - SHORTSFEST

Pittsburg Community Theatre  
(Call: 316-231-8331)

Feb. 26-28, Mar. 1 - BOEING-BOEING  
Jun. 25-28 - A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON  
THE WAY TO THE FORUM



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Bishop Miege High School  
(Call: 913-262-2700)

Nov. 13, 15-16 - PICNIC  
Jan. 22-25 - GODSPELL  
Apr. 9, 10-11 - GUYS AND DOLLS

## ARTS IN EDUCATION

In 1986 the Association of Kansas Theatre pledged to "boldly go where no man had dared to go before" so to speak, and made a commitment to arts in education. Ah yes, arts in education. It receives much lip service. Who would deny the beauty of a Renoir, the magic of Bach, or the profoundness of Goethe? Yet, who would go out of their way to ensure that children everywhere have a chance to experience these wonders for themselves?

Only nine months ago many of us participated in the 1986 Convention. We made promises to ourselves and to each other that now was the time we would take action. We left the Doubletree in Overland Park and dispersed to the four corners of Kansas inspired. We knew not only what we could do to promote the arts in education in our area, but even some ways in which to accomplish this task. That was in February.

This is November. We are emersed in our own busy schedules. We have our jobs to do, our families to support and love and take care of. We are trying to find just thirty minutes to steal for ourselves. That is understandable. That is life.

But life, as we said we desired it to be in February, consists of children learning about the arts right along with math, science and English. It is outreach through community theatre participation. It is real and made more real through the intrinsic values of the arts. For a long time if someone came up to you and asked you to describe exactly what the arts "do for you," chances are you would mumble something about feelings or emotions. There was more, much more, but where was the proof?

In recent years there has been a great deal of research into the arts. They have been analyzed, de-mystified, evaluated and substantiated. The proof has been documented that the arts are more than nice. They have value in developing the parts of the mind that will be challenged by the changing trend in

careers, jobs that require more than the ability to understand math and science.

This research will be shared with you in future issues of the "Marquee." However, for now, it is enough to know that the work you do today towards arts in education will help build the world tomorrow. Who wouldn't want to be a vibrant part of that?

IT'S NOT TOO LATE



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

### JOHNSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE FESTIVAL

On December 5 and 6, Olathe South Theatre will host a theatre festival for schools in Johnson County, as well as schools which belong to the East Kansas League. Short plays, full-length plays, workshops and awards will be presented. This event is endorsed by the Association of Kansas Theatre.

For more information contact Roger Ramseyer, 913-782-7010.

## MEMBER-GET-A-MEMBER!

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? This is always a question considered when talking about membership. Do the members come first, or do the programs to attract the members? I don't know the answers. But I do know that numbers talk. As we are in the midst of challenging times for the arts, numbers do impress potential sponsors. Let's face it. We're a business, and we need to think like one.

Right now the 86-87 membership drive is on. Renewal notices have been mailed out. Technically, if you have not renewed your membership by now you are no longer an AKT member in good standing. Take a look at your Marquee mailing label. Is there a red star there? If so rush to your checkbook and renew today. You are on our endangered species list.

Last year AKT's members numbered 260. If each of those renewed, and each shared AKT with a friend who also joined, this year's membership would total over 500. Just think about a network across Kansas 500 members strong. Sounds exciting, doesn't it? You can be a part of all of this simply by contacting a friend today--have them use the membership application on this page. (Incidentally, I think we have the chance to change the future of theatre in Kansas--come join me!)

The Association of Kansas Theatre has always been a service organization. Let us share our service with others. If you have questions, contact me at 764-2201. Member--get another member today, and don't wait until convention to renew. Our grants are due in before convention, and we need the strength of your membership now.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (Make checks payable to "AKT")

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (A/C) \_\_\_\_\_  
(work) \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are good from September 1 to August 31 each year.

### TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

#### Individual

Regular (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_  
Student/Senior (\$8) \_\_\_\_\_  
Contributing\* (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sustaining\*\* (\$60) \_\_\_\_\_  
ANGEL\*\* (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Organizational

Budget under \$5000 (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_  
Budget \$5000-\$9999 (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_  
Budget over \$10000 (\$60) \_\_\_\_\_  
ANGEL\*\* (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Contributions are tax deductible  
\*\*Conference registration is waived for Sustainers and ANGELS

### DIVISIONAL AFFILIATION (Choose one)

Children's Theatre \_\_\_\_\_  
Community Theatre (KCTC) \_\_\_\_\_  
Professional Theatre \_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary School Theatre \_\_\_\_\_  
University/College Theatre \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this application with your check to:

AKT Central Office  
1628 Dudley Court  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Or call for more information:  
913-842-3502

# CONVENTION NEWS

The 1987 AKT Convention will be held in Salina, March 26-29. The AKT Board is creating a convention spectacular that begins where last year's convention left off. A convention that will hold moments of excitement, entertainment and education for everyone. Performances? We got 'em. Workshops? We got 'em. Skilled professionals? We got 'em. Times to mingle with friends? We got 'em. Arts in Education sessions? We got 'em. So read on for a sneak preview of the 1987 AKT Convention, one that's sure to have just what you're looking for. Yes, this one's for you!

## UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

The university theatre festival will run throughout the day on Friday, March 27. The following are guidelines for the festival:

1. This is not a competition, but a showcase of student work.
2. Pieces should be acted, directed and/or written by students. I would like to stay away from faculty directed pieces so that we maintain a strong focus on student work.
3. Primary focus will be on acting, directing and/or writing, not on design and technical elements of the pieces. Our limited time and resources require that design elements be kept to a minimum. If it can be arranged, I would like to feature student design work with a display and design critique as a part of the festival.
4. Pieces should be at least ten minutes and not more than forty minutes in length. Set up and strike should not last more than ten minutes combined.
5. Pieces can be one-acts, cuttings from longer plays, improvised creations, etc. If you are using copyrighted material, you are responsible for obtaining permission and paying any royalty required.
6. Each piece will be adjudicated by guest respondents. Depending on the length and nature of the pieces, we might adjudicate after

- each one, or we might respond to several short pieces as a group.
7. Entries will be restricted to one for each university/college. All of our schools need a chance to be involved. If we still have space after all interested schools have applied, I will solicit other entries from whomever wants to participate.
8. There is no entry fee, but all participants must be registered for the convention.
9. Deadline for submission of entries is January 15, 1987. Sooner is better.

If you have questions, please let me know. My purpose is to provide a means for us to come together and share our work through our students, and through the personal contact a convention provides. I hope to see you in March!

Lendley C. Black, Chair  
University/College Division  
Emporia State University  
316-343-1200

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
UP TO DATE!



KARTS: An Innovative Approach to Related Arts Training

by Maureen Craighill-Moran, KARTS Coordinator, Art Therapist

The Kansas Arts Resource Training System (KARTS) is a unique, advanced and comprehensive training program in arts with the handicapped. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Program, Division of Personnel Preparation for the Education of the Handicapped. That's a long title to tell you that this is one of the special projects the federal government has a strong interest in and commitment to, as well as the only one of its kind funded in the arts.

Kansas was selected for the pilot project because of the dedication to related arts in education with the disabled by William C. Freeman, Director of the Arts with the Handicapped, Division of Special Education, Kansas State Department of Education and Director of VSA. As author of the orig-

inal grant, his proposal focused on training in visual arts, movement, music, drama and storytelling as teaching tools to be used in special education.

KARTS emphasizes preparation of qualified individuals to provide effective in-service and technical assistance to regular, special and arts educators, related service personnel, parents, and the special students they serve. This three year program will systematize services to the field through District Resource Coordinators (DRCs). These special teachers will take their training back to local area's population and network with other educators to extend the impact of their training.

We interviewed many, and chose twelve highly motivated individuals from the fields of special education, special music

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#### KARTS continued

education, and art education/therapy. These twelve DRCs, with their expanded expertise, will enrich the children's lives with whom they personally work. They will also take their dedication to the handicapped a set further: they will educate others in the field via support group meetings in their local areas, as well as through provision of resources and technical assistance, and will facilitate a networking system.

The KARTS project is just finishing up its first year of intensive training workshops. We've explored topics on: presentation skills, assessment and evaluation procedures, the arts and child change, group dynamics and teaching styles discovered through music, integration through movement for special needs students, adaptive strategies for related arts, exploring aspects of the self through mask making; and self evaluation through creative and professional writing. We have brought in specialized consultants from all over the United States who are the best in their fields. And this was just the beginning. We have two more years of training ahead, plus replication efforts in two other states.

This program will enable Kansas to achieve cost effectiveness and self-sufficiency in arts for the handicapped. This system can be adopted by other states to provide the same services in a cost effective manner. We strongly feel the arts need to be included in every child's education, especially the disabled student. With so many cuts coming in education, the fear that the arts will be left out is becoming a reality. We believe that by training our educators comprehensively, we can positively affect the lives and learning styles of our special students by accomodating their multi-sensory learning modalities. The arts must become an integral part of their daily routines in building skills to reach their goals and objectives, and not just a special event that occasionally touches their lives. We want our educators to be able to call forth the

creative, expressive potential within each child. To do this we must challenge educators' own growth in the arts, so that they can comfortably model this process of living full, creative lives to their students.

For more information, please call or write: Maureen Craighill-Moran, KARTS Coordinator, Box 31, Division of Psychology & Special Education, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS 66801, 316-343-1200 X4816.

Following are the names and cities of the DRCs, and the district of the state they represent in their work:  
Bonnie Burnside, Kansas City, KS (NE)  
Sharon Loveless, Olathe (NE)  
Judy Heil, Hays (NW/NC)  
Joleen Haffner, Manhattan (NW/NC)  
Tamara Herl, Dighton (SW)  
Toni Dort, Great Bend (SW)  
Sherri Austin, Wichita (SC)  
Bobbie Koen, Wichita (SC)  
Mary Leach-Clark, Wichita (SC)  
Kay Martinez, Parsons (SE)  
Joleen M. Thompson, Ottawa (SE)

#### WANTED: YOUR NOMINEES

Every year AKT tries to honor those individuals and theatres across the state who are making special contributions to theatre in their areas. Awards are divided into the following four categories:

1. Certificate of Recognition--This award shall be given for an achievement short-term in nature, and primarily local in impact, during the year between conventions.
  2. Outstanding Achievement in Theatre Award--This shall be given for an achievement of state, regional or national significance; may be short-term or long-term in nature.
  3. Kansas Theatre Hall of Fame Award--This shall be given for extraordinary work and commitment to the theatre, over an extended period of time; the person should be from Kansas or have worked in Kansas for a number of years.
- (continued)

#### Awards continued

4. Business and Kansas Theatre Award--These awards shall be given to businesses in or out of state that have supported theatre in Kansas; this support will be assessed in relationship to the size of the business; the support can be cash, gifts of equipment, ticket sales support, consultationships, etc.

More than one award may be made in each category. However, no award shall be made unless there is a clearly qualified candidate or candidates.

Nominations for awards should be made as soon as possible to the AKT Awards Chair, Mary Doveton, Lawrence Community Theatre, P. O. Box 3205, Lawrence, KS 66046.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU! THIS IS AKT'S WAY OF APPLAUDING THOSE AMONG US WHO HAVE SAID "YES!" TO KANSAS THEATRE.

#### Convention news continued

##### SECONDARY SCHOOL DIVISION

After talking to the large number of secondary school teachers attending last year's convention, we knew this year's convention would be a challenge. But we've met the challenge!

Friday, all day-March 27th, will be focused on workshops specifically for the secondary school teacher. Right now plans are on the drawing board for a two-hour workshop on teaching acting, and a two and a half hour workshop on designing for school theatres. You will not want to miss this day specifically designed for you, so mark your calendars now and alert the administration.

In view of the huge success last year's awards were, they will now be an annual part of the convention. They will be presented at the Saturday night banquet.

Saturday morning will highlight dance and acting classes for both the novice

and the master. Saturday afternoon will hold a session on Arts in Education, picking up on the commitment made at Convention 86.

Please remember the challenge made during last year's divisional meeting. Now is our chance to influence the fate of theatre in Kansas. Share AKT with a friend--member-get-a-member. Together, hand-in-hand, our strength will be felt across the state.

Divisional meetings will be held Saturday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:00. An agenda will be sent to you prior to the convention. If you want items placed on the agenda, please contact Secondary School Chair Gina Phillips.

There will also be an election of a new Secondary School Chair as Gina was appointed as a temporary replacement. Be thinking about your willingness to make a commitment to your future by serving in this important position.

#### PROFESSIONAL SHOWCASE

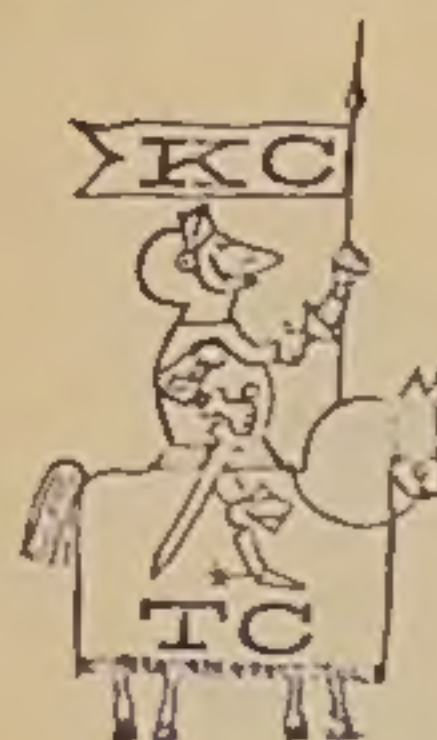


ROBERT FITCH

A rejuvenated Professional Division led by John Boldenow is excited about bringing in Robert Fitch for the 1987 Convention. He will be leading master dance workshops and also adjudicating the university theatre festival. Jim Simons, University of Colorado Theatre Department Chair and Artistic Director of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival will be the second adjudicator for the festival.

Jerry Crawford will be leading two acting workshops. One, "7 steps to heaven" will include guidelines for role preparation and creation. An advanced workshop, "Holographing the play text" will demonstrate Frank Gagliano's approach to stage vocal improvment.

The Professional Division needs your support. For more information contact John Boldenow (316/272-2282).



## Kansas Community Theatre Conference

Our fall meeting was held Oct. 4th at Salina. Community Theatres were represented from Abilene, Johnson County, Lyons, Marysville, Russell, Salina, Topeka, and Wichita. Each group shared their theatre's schedule, organization methods and problems. It was so interesting to learn different ways to do the same thing. Common problems were attracting younger audience members, providing needed production space and achieving funding.

The following ideas were presented as possibilities for organizing future state festivals to pick the Kansas representative to the regional American Association of Community Theatre Festival:

1. Divide the state in eight areas. Adjudicators assigned to each area attend plays in their locals and pick one area winner to compete at state festival. Different adjudicators would pick the state representative at that festival.
2. State would be divided into areas of like classification of budget, size, etc.--similar to school classifications. Area winners would then compete at the state festival during AKT convention.
4. Adjudicators would travel throughout the state visiting each entry locally then pick four finalists to compete at the state festival.
5. Hold state festival at a different weekend than AKT convention so there would be time for many productions.
6. Hold state festival to share productions, but do not pick a winner. There would be no competition.

Discuss and weigh these carefully as K.C.T.C. members will vote on one at our March 28th, 1987 meeting.

At lunch, Dale Talley, AKT convention local arrangements chairperson, explained housing options. Then the group moved to Marymount College to view the facilities for our '87 AACT/FEST.

Jim Gatner, district manager for Southwestern Bell Telephone, explained their grants available for underwriting productions and the Kansas Arts Excellence grants for special programs. This led to a lively discussion on fund-raising, season ticket campaigns and play selection.

The meeting ended with people making contacts for visiting each others' productions, borrowing costumes and other resources.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The best resource on season ticket campaigns is SUBSCRIBE NOW! By Danny Newman, Theatre Communications Group, Inc., New York, 1977.

Linda Lea Borden  
KCTC President

**GET INTO THE ACT...  
WITH AACT/FEST!**

"Great! Exciting! Stimulating! What a weekend! Worth every minute!" Feelings like these abound at AACT/FEST from the state to the national level. If your community theatre hasn't tried it, **GET INTO THE ACT!** Those who have are hooked.

Six Kansas Community Theatres attended **TECH DAY**, Saturday, October 4, in Salina. Everyone agreed that Marymount College with its traditional proscenium stage is ideal for a Community Theatre Festival.

Packets containing all the necessary information on entering the Festival were passed out. **THESE PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL COMMUNITY THEATRES.** IF YOUR THEATRE IS THINKING ABOUT ENTERING PLEASE CALL OR WRITE: Charles Kephart, Salina Community Theatre, P. O. Box 2305, Salina, KS 67402--913/827-6126. The packets contain the Kansas AACT/FEST rules, entry forms, floor plan, tech sheet, etc. Let's all plan to make AACT/FEST '87 the most exciting Community Theatre Festival ever!  
Charles L. Kephart  
Kansas AACT/FEST Chairman

## We're holding a seat for you



The 1987 AKT Convention will be held in Salina March 26-29 at the Marymount College. Make your plans now to attend. Detailed convention material will be coming out in January, but today is the day to mark your calendars and begin making the necessary arrangements. Come enjoy AACT/FEST, the University Theatre Festival, workshops and old friends.

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THEATRE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

As the American Association for Theatre in Secondary Education (AATSE) begins its inaugural year, you are invited to become a member and show that you believe a national organization devoted solely to meeting the needs of theatre teachers can make a difference.

There are three types of membership: organizational, individual and charter. For more information contact Judy Rethwisch, 1719 Stemwood Way, Fenton, MO 63026, 314-343-9007.

### TAKE NOTE!!

The new AKT Central Office is now located in Lawrence. The new address is:

1628 Dudley Ct.  
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The new phone number is:

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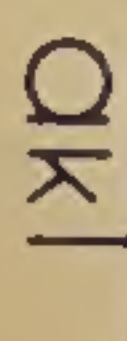
President: John Stefano, ESU Theatre, Emporia 66801 (316-343-1200 x256 w; 342-3927 h)  
Pres-Elect: Teresa Stohs, 1304 E. 123rd St., Olathe, 66061 (913-764-7007 w; 764-2201 h)  
Sec/Treas: Jerry Snider, JCCC, 12345 College at Quivira, OP, KS 66210 (913-469-8500 w)  
Past Pres: Mary Doveton, 2130 Owens Lane, Lawrence 66046 (913-843-7469 w; 842-2334 h)

Division Chairs:

Children: Jo Huseman, 1213 Watson, Topeka 66604 (913-273-1191 w; 272-4892 h)  
Community: Linda Lea Borden, 1204 N. 10th, Salina 67401 (913-825-9303 h)  
Professional: John Boldenow, Wichita Children's Theatre, P. O. Box 7051,  
Wichita 67207 (316-252-2282 w)  
Secondary: Gina Phillips, Hyman Hebrew Academy, 5901 College Blvd, OP (913-491-4082 w)  
Univ/Coll: Lynn Black, 1226 Rural, Emporia 66801 (316-343-1200 x256 w; 342-5199 h)  
Member at Large: Annette Klein, 1542 Glendale, Topeka 66604 (913-232-9385 w; 272-7101 h)  
1987 Convention Chair: John Stefano  
1987 AACT/FEST Chair: Charles Kephart, Salina Community Theatre, P.O. Box 2305,  
Salina, 67402 (913-827-6126)  
Local Arrangements Chair: Dale Talley, Salina, (913-827-7842)  
1987 Convention Host: Dennis Denning, Marymount College, Salina 67401

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